dpi notes

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ISSUE No. 8, FEBRUARY 1991

INFORMATION

This month DPI will publish *The UN and Public Information*, a comprehensive directory to information available through the UN to Governments, businesses, international and NGO bodies, academics, researchers and the general public. The 48-page illustrated booklet, which portrays the UN as one of the world's leading producers and storehouses of information, describes the statistics, maps, and other data on international law, demography, economics, literacy, health and science which the UN generates, and provides names and addresses of offices from which it can be accessed.

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

To meet demands from radio stations for news about the UN during the Persian Gulf crisis, DPI'S Radio Section recently launched telephone news feeds in French, and increased its feeds in English and Spanish.

DPI's video feature "Relief Agencies Prepare for Tide of Refugees Fleeing Gulf War" was aired on CNN World Report four times on 27-28 January.

Last month, DPI also issued a revised version of its reference paper on Security Council actions relating to the crisis. The paper contains the texts of 12 Council resolutions on the subject adopted since August.

AFRICA RECOVERY

The New York Times this month published on the opinion page of its Sunday business section an article by Salim Lone, chief of the DPI Africa Recovery Section, which argues that neglect is retarding social and economic reforms on the African continent.

Last month, *The Irish Times* published two articles written by Africa Recovery staff. The Dublin paper has offered the staff space in its pages on a regular basis.

Major articles in the latest, double issue of the *Africa Recovery* newsletter discuss: Africa's economic performance in 1990 in light of the Gulf crisis; political change on the continent; latest emergency situations; proposals for reform of Africa's commodity sector; and economic studies of Mauritius and Zimbabwe.

As part of its series of Africa Recovery briefing papers, DPI in March will publish an analysis of African population policies. Briefing papers under preparation look at food security issues, regional integration and the possible economic impact of a majority-ruled South Africa on the economy of the region.

PEACE AND SECURITY

For the Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water held at Headquarters in January, DPI issued an information kit containing a backgrounder and fact sheets for the use of delegates, journalists and NGOs. It was also distributed through the Information Centre network.

HUMAN RIGHTS

In 1990, according to DPI's Public Services Section, DPI, in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights, arranged 21 human rights briefings at Headquarters for public groups ranging from members of the US Naval War College to NGOs to corporate executives. Telephone, letter and walk-in requests for information on human rights totalled 1,548. Some 516,000 visitors taking the tour of Headquarters were briefed on human rights, as

This is the first issue of DPI Notes in 1991. Publication in the future will be monthly.

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well as on other issues of priority concern to the United Nations.

The UN Information Centre in Prague reports it has printed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in both Czech and Slovak.

DECOLONIZATION

DPI this month completed production of an educational video called *About the United Nations—Decolonization*. This latest in DPI's *About the United Nations* series of videos and study guides on UN priority issues focusses on progress peoples in non-self-governing territories have made towards self-determination, particularly since the UN's 1960 Declaration on decolonization. It looks at the UN's helping role and examines the experiences of colonial people in situations leading to independence which ranged from armed struggle to negotiations to peaceful referendums and plebiscites.

INFORMATION CENTRES

To focus attention on the fight against illiteracy, UNIC Bangladesh and the UN Association of Bangladesh last month hosted a seminar on "Education for All by 2000." Speakers included the Director of UNESCO's Principal Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangladesh's Education Secretary, the local UNDP Resident Representative, government officials and UNA members.

UNIC Ouagadougou reports that the media in Niger are showing increasing interest in covering the work of the United Nations. Radio Niger broadcasts DPI's "Perspectives internationales" daily. Every Sunday night, it carries a segment on "L'Afrique à L'ONU" after its main news show. Every month, it airs "A l'ecoute de l'ONU," a 30-minute roundup of UN news, co-produced by Radio Niger and UNIC Ouagadougou, which uses DPI tapes and interviews with UN officials in Niger.

For UN Day, 24 October, UNIC Tokyo, in cooperation with the Japan Broadcasting Corporation, organized a live discussion of United Nations peace-keeping operations, with USG Marrack Goulding participating from New York via satellite.

On UN Volunteer Day, 5 December, UNICs in London, Madrid, Sydney, Brussels, Manila, Harare, Nairobi, Kinshasa, Ouagadougou and Asuncion all honoured the efforts of the 1,000 UN Volunteers currently working in 80 developing countries on projects executed or supported by UN organizations and programmes. The Volunteer Programme was established by the General Assembly in 1970 and operates under UNDP administration.

INFORMATION CENTRE APPOINTMENTS

Ceciwa Khonje, former Chief of the African Unit of DPI'S radio sevice, has been appointed Director of UNIC Lagos. She reports to her post this month.

Maria de Almeida, who previously served with the UN Council for Namibia, has been appointed UNIC Director in Lusaka. She also starts her new job in February.

Janet Badjan Young, who had served with the Centre for Human Settlements in Nairobi, has been appointed UNIC Director in Port-of-Spain. She also takes over her post this month.

STUDENT PROGRAMME

In a co-operative venture between DPI and the Columbia University School of Journalism-International Affairs, the United Nations has accredited journalism students from the university covering UN meetings and press conferences for class assignments. This year 33 student journalists are participating in the programme which began last September and ends in June.

DRUGS

A public service announcement designed by DPI and promoting UN drug control efforts has been placed with four major international news magazines. During the last half of 1990, it ran in 22 editions of *Time International* as well as in the U.S. domestic edition of *Time*, and in *Business Week* and *Sports Illustrated*.

In a related effort, DPI and the International Photographic Council are currently planning

a major photo and video exhibit on international drug abuse control to be held at Headquarters later this year.

VISITORS

Visitors to the Palais des Nations in 1990 were up 10 per cent over the previous year, according to the Geneva UN Information Service (UNIS). UNIS attributes the increase to attendance at a larger number of observances and special events, and to promotional efforts by the UNIS Visitors Service.

AWARDS

Breaking Barriers, the DPI documentary film on how the handicapped overcome obstacles to achieve their goals, was awarded a Silver Medal in the category of human concerns at the International Film and Television Festival of New York in January.

Also in January, the Department's animated film *Brushstrokes*, an examination of the phenomenon of prejudice, was awarded two prizes, one for "best concept," and one for "best children's film," by the International Animated Film Society (ASISA).

Breaking Barriers and *Brushstrokes* were both the recipients of several other international prizes during 1990.

NGOs

"As the world approaches the year 2000," Under-Secretary-General Thérèse P. Sévigny told 300 representatives of Soviet non-governmental organizations last month, "it advances towards a world in which universal human values will prevail."

Continuous information flows, she said, moving in and from all directions will enable humanity to share its common heritage and to foster universal human values. For DPI to do its part in bringing this about, she said, NGO co-operation is indispensable.

The Mocow seminar, which Mrs. Sévigny addressed, was held 29-31 January, and organized by DPI and the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries. Other speakers included Valentina Tereshkova, Chairman of the USSF Presidium and former Cosmonaut; Vladimir Petrovsky, Deputy Foreign Minister of the Soviet Union; Margaret J. Anstee, Director-General of the UN Office at Vienna; and Assistant Secretary-General P. Goran Ohlin of the UN Department for Disarmament Affairs.

LOOKING AHEAD

FOR INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, DPI is planning to hold a panel for NGOs at Headquarters on Thursday, 7 March. The theme of the panel will be "Making Women Count in the Nineties". The keynote speaker will be Geraldine Ferraro, former United States vice-presidential candidate. Other panelists include: Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director, UNFPA; Catherine O'Neill, Chairperson, Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, and Winn Newman, a lawyer who has successfully argued US legal cases on equal pay for work of comparable value. Erskine Childers, former Director of Information, UNDP, will serve as moderator. USG Sévigny will make an introductory statement.

The panel is part of a two-day programme DPI holds annually to familiarize representatives of newly-associated NGOs with the UN's work and services. In panels on 7 and 8 March, UN officials and NGO representatives will discuss the UN's work, outline its relationship with NGOs and review DPI services for NGOs.

For wider distribution for Women's Day, DPI is preparing a feature article and fact sheet on refugee women, the theme for the day chosen by the UN Commission on the Status of Women. DPI's Radio Section is producing two documentaries on refugee women.

SYMPOSIUM ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE-KEEPING (13-15 MARCH): DPI and the Institute of Policy Studies of Singapore are organizing a March symposium on the changing role of the UN in conflict resolution and

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peace-keeping to be held in Singapore. The seminar will discuss the evolving role of UN peace-keeping operations, the contribution to peace and security of regional arrangements, the UN peace plan for Cambodia, UN peace-keeping in Namibia and the peace process in Central America. Tommy Koh, Ambassador-at-large and director of the Institute of Policy Studies of Singapore, and Hisashi Owada, Japan's Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, will co-chair. Other international experts in the field will participate in the symposium before an audience of journalists, academics and students.

SEMINAR ON THE AFRICAN PRESS (29 April to 3 May): To encourage efforts to promote an independent and pluralistic press in Africa, UNESCO, DPI and UNDP are organizing a seminar on the African press 29 April to 3 May in Windhoek, Namibia. Participants will include 120 journalists, bankers, legal experts and government officials, from all over the African continent. The Government of Namibia is hosting the six-day event, which is the result of a UNESCO initiative. The International Federation of Newspaper Publishers and various governmental agencies are co-operating in the planning.

WHAT'S NEW AND AVAILABLE

Unless otherwise noted, all DPI information products are available at the UN Headquarters Secretariat Documents Distribution Desk, Room S-B1-44, (212) 963-7368.

BOOKLETS

The United Nations and Public Information. A guide for the public to UN-generated information. Currently in English only. DPI/1098.

Human Rights: Questions and Answers. Brief explanations of the rights protected by UN covenants, and UN efforts to promote these rights. Now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. DPI/919.

INFORMATION KITS

Amendment Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water (7-18 January 1991) Backgrounder and fact sheets on the Conference. English and French. DPI/1103.

REFERENCE PAPERS

UN Security Council Resolutions Relating to the Situation between Iraq and Kuwait. The texts of all 12 relevant Security Council resolutions. Currently only in English. DPI/1104/Rev.1.

UN Conferences and Special Observances—1991. DPI's annual reference paper on UN commemorative days, weeks, years and decades. English only. Reference Paper No. 30. Available on the Third Floor Press Racks.

MAGAZINES

Objective: Justice. Special issue on decolonization. English only. DPI/1108.

FEATURE ARTICLES

Creating Paintings in Miniature. How the UN Postal Administration disseminates information about the UN by issuing postage stamps—and makes money doing it. English only. DPI/1110.

UN Election Supervision. A comparison of the role of the UN Transition Group in Namibia (UNTAG) with that of the UN Observer Mission in Nicaragua (ONUVEN). English only. Available on the UN Headquarters Third Floor Press Rack.

FILMS AND VIDEOS

Brushstrokes. A seven-minute animated film which examines the irrationality of prejudice. 16 mm. and video. English, French and Spanish.

Breaking Barriers. A 29-minute film on how many of the disabled overcome the obstacles they face. 16 mm. and video. Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

SPEECHES BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL/DPI

Texts of addresses by USG Thérèse P. Sévigny are available from her office, Room S-1027A, United Nations, NY 10017. The following are recent statements on women's issues:

Statement to the Steering Committee on the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat. United Nations Headquarters. 27 March 1990. English only.

Les femmes et le pouvoir: Quel pouvoir? Remarks to the 1er sommet mondial sur les femmes. Montréal. 5 June 1990. French only.

Women and the Environment: Shaping the Present for the Future. Remarks at the International Forum on Women's Global Role. Osaka. 4 September 1990. English only.

De Montréal aux Nations Unies: Différences et similarités. Colloque 1990 de l'Association des femmes d'affaires du Québec. Montréal. 19 October 1990. French only.

DPI NOTES is published by the Department of Public Information.
Editor: Ellen Lukas, CPMD/CSS, Rm. S-900C
United Nations, NY 10017 — (212) 963-2233
Not an official record

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

ISSUE No. 9, MARCH 1991

WOMEN

Speaking on 7 March at a panel for NGOs organized by DPI to mark Women's Day, former US vice-presidential candidate Geraldine Ferraro urged listeners to make their goal "putting women in leadership in democracies worldwide, to see them impact on policy-making at every level." By educating women to make the most of opportunity and transition, she said, NGOs can "help women help themselves." If NGOs give women the tools they need, NGOs "can change the world."

Other participants in the panel on women's leadership roles in the 1990s included Dr. Nafis Sadik, Executive Director of UNFPA, Catherine O'Neill of the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, and Winn Newman, a US lawyer who had successfully argued legal cases on the issue of equal pay for work of comparable value. The panel was moderated by Erskine Childers, co-author with Sir Brian Urquhart of *A World in Need of Leadership: Tomorrow's United Nations.*

The same week a DPI *World Chronicle* TV show in which Mr. Childers argued for the advancement of women was aired in the U.S. on WNYC (Channel 31), on Paragon Cable and on Manhattan Cable. It was also provided by DPI to the SECA feed which gives satellite service to 150 public broadcasting services in the US.

NGOS

The Women's Day panel which featured Ms. Ferraro and Mr. Childers was part of the Department's annual orientation course for new NGO representatives. The programme on 7-8 March included a screening of UN videos, a tour of Headquarters facilities and a panel of speakers on economic, social and political issues before the UN.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Last December the UN Centre for Human Rights joined New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University to organize an NGO World Congress on Human Rights in New Delhi. The meeting brought together 200 representatives of human rights organizations in 60 countries to discuss human rights issues and make recommendations to the preparatory committee of the UN World Conference on Human Rights scheduled for 1993. Among the speakers was Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights. A press conference in connection with the Congress, organized by the UN Information Centre, was extensively covered by the Indian press.

Also in December, the UN Information Centre in Colombo provided University of Colombo law students with documentation and guidance for a human rights workshop the students organized.

INTERAGENCY COOPERATION

DPI's educational video series *About the United Nations* will be distributed by UNESCO to 2,000 UNESCO Associated Schools worldwide as well as to UNRWA schools. The series, which includes both videos and study guides in English, French and Spanish, covers such topics as Peacekeeeping, African Recovery, Palestine, Apartheid, Literacy and Decolonization. Videos and study guides on Environment and Develop-

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ment and Human Rights are in preparation for release later this year.

UNESCO and DPI cooperate extensively in promoting teaching about the United Nations, in promoting literacy and in other educational areas.

SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT

Since August, DPI has received an exceptionally large number of letters and phone calls commenting on the UN role in connection with the Gulf crisis. Between August and December, the usual number of phone calls to the Public Inquiries Section more than doubled to 11,679. Letters also doubled to a total of 6,337.

INFORMATION CENTRES

UNIC Paris reports that it has arranged for *ONU en action*, a weekly televison programme produced by DPI, to be aired on a regular basis by TV stations TFI, AZ, La 5 and Canal+. The Centre also reports it has been active in lending UN films for screening. Paris finds the most requested films are: *The Big If, BOOM, What Rights Has a Child?, Galapagos--My Special Land, Most Vital Resource--Water, This Is the United Nations, The UN Is for You* and *Portrait of Hope*.

A daily news bulletin called "In diretta dall'ONU," produced by UNIC Rome, is sent to Agora, the Italian parliamentary news agency, for inclusion in its daily feature *Notizie dall'ONU*.

UNIC Tokyo reports that, in answer to requests, the Centre recently provided colour slides and photos for exhibitions on human rights and on the environment organized by Japanese NGOs at seven locations in the Kansai area. The Centre also reports delivering extensive photos of UN peace-keeping operations to Japanese political parties and media personnel both for reference and for publication during the recent discussions in the Japanese Diet of a UN Peace-keeping Co-operation Bill. Photos and slides on human rights, on the environment and on other issues before the UN were delivered to the Japanese Ministry of Education for use in the Ministry's triennial revision of social studies textbooks.

UNIC Panama reports it recently made an extensive donation of books documents and photos to the history department at the University of Panama. The Centre also reports that 900 persons--a record number-- used the Centre's own reference and library service during 1990.

In late 1990, UNIC Cairo cooperated with a committee of the Organization for African Unity, the UN Economic Commmission for Africa and UNIDO in arranging promotional events in connection with the commemoration of Africa Industrialization Day. The events included: setting up interviews with the Minister of Industry, leaders of public and private industrial organizations and NGOs, as well as making radio and television contacts to place stories.

In December, UNIC Brussels, in coperation with the City of Antwerp, organized the presentation of the 1990 Peace Messenger Award for the Benelux region to Le Group de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix. An audience of 500 people, including the Minister of Telecommunications, the Vice President of the Belgian Senate, members of Parliament, city officials, university staff, NGO representatives, attended the ceremony held in Antwerp's City Theater.

YEARBOOK

This month DPI announced the publication of the 40th volume of the *Yearbook of the United Nations*, the official chronicle of the activities of the United Nations system, and the single most comprehensive reference source on the work of the Organization.

The 1,350-page volume just issued covers UN efforts in 1986, a year when, the Secretary-General wrote in a forward to the *Yearbook*, "the first signs of the prelude to the end of the cold war were already perceptible."

LOOKING AHEAD

HUMAN RIGHTS: DPI has contracted Nucleus Productions Limited, London, to produce an educational video on human rights as part of the Department's *About the UN* series of educational videos. Rex Bloomstein, who will produce the video, has produced and directed documentaries on *Human Rights* and *Victims of Torture* for Thames Television, and is completing his third *Prisoners of Conscience* series for the BBC on individual prisoners in different parts of the world. His 90-minute documentary *Jewish Humour--American Style* was broadcast on PBS in January 1991. Caroline Moorehead, who will write the human rights video, has studied and written extensively on the subject, including three ten-part series, *Prisoners of Conscience* for the BBC, books and feature articles for *The Times and The Independent*.

ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT: DPI has contracted North South Productions, London, to produce a six-part series for Channel 4, UK, entitled *How to Save the World* to coincide with UNCED. North South earlier produced the award-winning series *Only One Earth* and the ecological musical *Song of the Forest*. It also produced a six-part series with UNICEF on the Rights of the Child.

WHAT'S NEW AND AVAILABLE

Unless otherwise noted, all DPI information products are available at the UN Headquarters Secretariat Documents Distribution Desk, Room S-B1-44, (212) 963-7368.

REFERENCE BOOKS AND PAPERS

Yearbook of the United Nations . Activities of the UN system in 1986. English only. 1,350 pages. (ISBN: 0-7923-1076-4); United Nations Publication Sales No. E.90.I.1). US$95.00.

(Available through the UN Bookshop, Room GA-32, United Nations, NY 10017, USA, or through the UN Bookshop, Door 40, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland. It may also be ordered through bookstores worldwide or from Kluwer Publishers, 101 Philip Drive, Norwell, MA 02061, USA, or Kluwer Academic Publishers Group, P) Box 322, 3300 AH Dordrecht, Netherlands.)

UN Security Council Resolutions Relating to the Situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Texts of all 12 relevant Security Council resolutions. Currently available only in English. DPI/1104/Rev.1.

States Members of the UN. A list which includes States' dates of admission to the UN. English only. DPI/1076.

BOOKLETS AND LEAFLETS

The United Nations and Public Information. A guide for the public to UN-generated information. 40 pages. Currently available in English only. DPI/1098.

Earth Summit--UN Conference on Environment and Development. Leaflet introducing the conference scheduled for 1992. Currently in English only. DPI/1118. (Available from UNCED, Rm.S-1040, United Nations, NY 10017. FAX (212) 963-4556).

United Nations Calendar of Women's Activities--1991. Dates of UN observances and meetings related to women's issues. English only. DPI/1111.

The United Nations Social Agenda #5. Dates of UN observances related to social questions. English. DPI/1106

International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries. Text of the convention opened for signature in 1990. Arabic,

Chinese, English, French, Spanish, Russian. DPI/1049.

Human Rights: Questions and Answers. Explanations of rights protected by UN covenants. 60 pages. Now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish. DPI/919.

MAGAZINES

UN Chronicle DPI's quarterly magazine. Cover story on the UN at 45. English only.

Objective: Justice. Special issue on decolonization. English only. DPI/1108.

FILMS AND VIDEOS

Films and videos are available through the DPI Audio-Visual Promotion and Distribution Unit, Room S-805, United Nations, NY 10017. (212) 963-6982.

United Nations for a Better Future. A fast-paced look at the work of the Organization now in its fifth decade. Video, colour. 22 mins. 29 secs. English.

Brushstrokes. A seven-minute animated film which examines the irrationality of prejudice. 16 mm. and video. English, French and Spanish.

Breaking Barriers. A 29-minute film on how the disabled overcome obstacles. 16 mm. and video. Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

FEATURES & BACKGROUNDERS

Refugee Women: In the Spirit of Survival. Backgrounder on their situation in 1991. DPI/1114. English only.

Refugee Women Fact Sheet. Facts, figures and dates. DPI/1116. English only.

Creating Paintings in Miniature. How the UN Postal Administration uses postage stamps to spread information about the UN --and makes money doing it. English only. DPI/1110.

UN Election Supervision. A comparison of the role of the UN Transition Group in Namibia (UNTAG) with that of the UN Observer Mission in Nicaragua (ONUVEN). DPI/1105. English, French and Spanish.

(Features are also available on the UN Headquarters Third Floor Press Rack.)

SPEECHES BY THE UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL/DPI

Texts of addresses by USG Thérèse P. Sévigny are available from her office, Room S-1027A, United Nations, NY 10017. The following are recent statements about communications:

International Broadcasting and International Cooperation. Remarks to the McMaster University/Radio Canada International. 20 March 1990. English only.

Public Opinion and the United Nations. Statement to NGO representatives. United Nations Headquarters. 29 March 1990. English only.

Challenges for Communications and the International Debate on Information Issues. Remarks at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Tufts University. 12 April 1990. English only.

The United Nations and Public Information. Remarks to the Affiliated Advertising Agencies International, Inc. (3AI). United Nations Headquarters. 5 October 1990. English only.

Communications Makes the World Go Round. Remarks to the 43rd National Conference of the Public Relations Society of America. New York. 7 November 1990. English only.

National Television and Globalization. Remarks to the International Colloquium Organized by the Communications Department of the University of Montreal. 20 November, 1990. English and French.

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